

Saints Peter & Paul      St. Mary's (Dormition of the Mother of God)  
 Byzantine Catholic Church      Byzantine Catholic Church  
 107 South Fourth Street      131 South Morris Street  
 Minersville, PA 17954      Saint Clair, PA 17970

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Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

SS. Peter & Paul Cantor: Mr. Paul Konkus      St. Mary Cantor: Dr. Peter Yasenchak

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**CONFESSIONS:** SS. Peter & Paul: Saturday 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. prior to Divine Liturgy and Daily prior to Divine Liturgy

St. Mary's: Saturday 3:00 PM

**SICK CALLS:** As scheduled, or anytime in case of an emergency. If anyone is homebound or hospitalized, please call the rectory (544-2074)

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### *The Cross, Our Victory*

Have you seen the wonderful victory? Have you seen the splendid deeds of the Cross? ... Who can tell the Lord's mighty deeds? By death we were made immortal: these are the glorious deeds of the Cross.

Have you understood the victory? Have you grasped how it was wrought? Learn now, how this victory was gained without any sweat or toil of ours. No weapons of ours were stained with blood; our feet did not stand in the front line of battle; we suffered no wounds; witnessed no tumults; and yet we obtained the victory.

The battle was the Lord's, the crown is ours. Since then victory is ours, let us imitate the soldiers, and with joyful voices sing the songs of victory.

Let us praise the Lord and say, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?"

The Cross did all these wonderful things for us: the Cross is a war memorial erected against the demons, a sword against sin, the sword with which Christ slew the serpent.

The Cross is the Father's will, the glory of the Only-begotten, the Spirit's exultation, the beauty of the angels, the guardian of the Church. Paul glories in the Cross; it is the rampart of the saints, it is the light of the whole world.

*St. John Chrysostom*

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Sunday of the Holy Cross*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast  
Tone 7**

Welcome to the parish communities of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Churches of Minersville and Saint Clare, Pennsylvania. We greet and welcome you to our Church. Our Church is a holy place. Our Church is where we get together in Jesus' Name. It is holy because we come here to worship, to be nourished in faith through Sacred Scripture and preaching, to open our hearts and minds to celebrate the mystery of salvation in Jesus Christ and to dedicate ourselves to a life of holiness and service to the Lord and others. The church building itself reflects this faith and calls us to enter into communion with God. We invite you to share our faith in Jesus Christ, to experience our worship and to live a life dedicated to the service of God and one another in Jesus' Name.

**March 3 – March 9, AD2024**

Vigil of Sunday at St. Mary		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+ <b>Mary Nagg</b> req. by MM Joseph J. Hydock*
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	<b>Health and Blessing of the Parishioners*</b> (livestreamed)
Monday	9:00 a.m.	No Service Today
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	6 <sup>th</sup> Lentin Canonical Hour*
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	<b>Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts*</b>
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	9 <sup>th</sup> Lentin Canonical Hour*
Friday	12:00 p.m.	<b>Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts*</b>
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	<b>40 Martyrs of Sebaste &amp; Panachida w/Diptych*</b>
Saturday Vigil	4:00 p.m.	+ <b>Andrew &amp; +Julia Gershak</b> req. by The Estate*
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	<b>Health &amp; Blessing of the Parishioners*</b>

\*St. Mary  
\*SS Peter & Paul

**Epistle Readers:** 3/3 – Beverly Kostishak; 3/10 – Gail Burgess; 3/17 – Marie Wanchick; 3/24 – Paulette Murphy; 3/25 – Judy Kostura; 3/26 – Ellen Sinkovich; 3/27 – Laura Mitchell; 3/28 – Paulette Murphy; 3/29 – Dolores Kramer; 3/30 – Marie Wanchick; 3/31 – Laura Mitchell.

**Candle Offering:** Candles before the Icons of the Mother of God and Jesus Christ and the Sacramental Table are offered for Health & Blessing of **Angela & Jeff Hart & baby Charlotte Hart** requested by Cheryl Mason

**Breakfast with Father**

**Today the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast following the Divine Liturgy we will have Bible study with a light lunch in the church dining hall.**

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**Let us remember** in our prayers the sick and homebound of our parish. And pray, earnestly, for peace in Ukraine and the Holy Land where children are killed and or traumatized for life. Such killing is abhorrent to God and rest assured He will not be mocked. There is a price to be paid for infidelity to His command not to kill either bodily, verbally or spiritually.

The big controversy de jure is IVF, in vitro fertilization which is done outside the conugal act in marriage. Pope St. Paul VI warned against the sins that will come once we disregard God's plan for human beings. We see it now. Humans are playing god and deciding for themselves what is right and wrong. The Truth is set aside for the Lie, viz., we are the masters, not the Lord God. Beware because the wages for sin is Death, death of the immortal soul.

**WHAT SEEMS HARD, LOVE MAKES EASY.**

AUGUSTINE: How hard and painful does this appear! The Lord has required that "whoever will come after him must deny himself." But what He commands is neither hard nor painful when He himself helps us in such a way so that the very thing He requires may be accomplished.... For whatever seems hard in what is enjoined, love makes easy. SERMONS ON NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS 46.1.

**DEFLECTING SELF-HATE.** AUGUSTINE: This precept by which we are enjoined to lose our life does not mean that a person should kill himself, which would be an unforgivable crime, but it does mean that one should kill that in oneself which is unduly attached to the earthly, which makes one take inordinate pleasure in this present life to the neglect of the life to come. This is the meaning of "shall hate his life" and "shall lose it." Embedded in the same admonition he speaks most openly of the profit of gaining one's life when he says: "He that loses his life in this world shall find it unto life eternal." LETTERS, 243, TO LAETUS.

He is *Revealed*  
by many Names...



“...and His name shall be called...” Isaiah 9:6.

The Holy Name of our Lord, God and Saviour was revealed by the angelic visitor. Throughout salvation history, He is referred to in a variety of ways, each of which make known more and more of the enduring love of our Heavenly Father for each of us.



*I will fix him like a nail in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family; on him shall hang all the glory of his family; descendants and offspring, all the little dishes from bowls to jugs.* Isaiah 22: 23, 24.

Believers have dreamed fantastic ideas concerning Christ as “...a nail in a sure spot.” It has inspired generations because it brings to the worshipping child of God a sense of the fixedness, the certainty and security of Jesus Christ in His relationship to the place of worship and the throne of God. Christ comes permanently among us and remains with us, particularly as we worship Him together as a parish faith community, when we become most aware of His presence in our midst. Just as the nail is struck into the wood to fix it permanently and securely, so Christ’s presence with us is secure. It reminds us of the possibility we sometimes are not as steady and permanent. But if we here and now are being nailed together by the grace of Christ into a holy and enduring faith community, the Church, the Body of Christ, we can trust by faith it is Christ Who is the source of our spiritual strength and unity. Our sincere response to His first shown love in enduring faith commitment is a sure sign that on “*him hangs the glory of his family, descendants and offspring.*” If we truly are a habitation of God, a temple of the Holy Spirit, it is because His place is certain among us. About this there must be no question. We must also be just as surely fastened to Him as He is to us. *This love is based on the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever*” 2 John 2. For where He is, there, we His servants will also be.

A central icon depicting the Holy Trinity. The Father is seated on the left, the Son is in the center holding a book, and the Holy Spirit is on the right. Below them are three smaller icons of church fathers: St. Basil the Great on the left, St. John Chrysostom in the center, and St. Gregory the Great on the right. The entire scene is enclosed in a decorative frame with a cross at the top.

Wisdom Of  
The

Byzantine  
Fathers

And you see how He also makes His discourse without exception not saying at all, 'Whether you will or not, you must suffer this,' but simply how? 'If any man will come after me.' He does not force, He does not compel, but each person is Lord of his own choice. For to do things, He calls us not to evil burdensome things, not to punishment or vengeance does He compel. No, the nature of the matter is sufficient enough to attract...for you ought not, Peter, because you confessed Him to be the Son of God only to expect crowns (Cf. Mark 8: 29), and to suppose this is enough for salvation and for the future to enjoy security as having done all that is necessary. For although it is in His power as Son of God to protect us from having any trial at all of hardships, yet such is not His wisdom for our sake, so that having contributed something ourselves, we be even more approved. Add, therefore, personal lived faith commitment to the love Christ has for each of us! St. John Chrysostom.

# WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

*Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance; grant victory to Your Church over her enemies, and protect Your people with Your Cross*  
Troparion, Third Sunday of the Great Fast.

*No longer does the flaming sword guard the gates of Eden, for on them one finds the most glorious seal, the tree of the Cross. By it, the sorrow of death and the victory of the Abyss have been conquered, for You, O my Saviour, stood up and called out to those in the Abyss: "Enter again into paradise"*  
Kontakion, Third Sunday of the Great Fast.

*We bow to Your Cross, O Lord, and we praise Your holy Resurrection* Hymn  
instead of "Holy God", Third Sunday of the Great Fast.

*Rejoice, O live-giving Cross of the Lord, Paradise of the Church and new Tree of life, who bring us the joy of unending glory. Through you, the hosts of demons are driven back; in you, the angels in heaven rejoice; and for you, the assemblies of believers are now keeping the feast. O invincible weapon and impenetrable stronghold, pride of bishops and scepter of kings, grant that we may now contemplate the Passion of Christ, and His holy Resurrection* Vesper Hymn, Third Sunday of the Great Fast.

*Seeing You, the Creator of the universe, hanging naked on the Cross, all creation was shaken with fear; the sun hid its rays and the rocks split asunder; the earth trembled and the veil of the temple was torn in two; the dead arose from their tombs, and the powers on high were struck with awe and said: O, what wonder! Behold, the Judge undergoes judgment and freely endures His passion for the salvation and restoration of the world* Vesper Hymn, Third Sunday of the Great Fast.

*Come, let us all sing a new song to celebrate the defeat of hell; for coming from the tomb, Christ has broken the power of death and saved the world. Come, let us all draw in faith, not from the fountain of corruption, but from the source of light; let us venerate the Cross of Christ in Whom we are glorified. As we venerate the Cross, which Moses formerly prefigured with his hands, we put the spiritual Amalek to flight. O Christ, our Master, and we ourselves are saved.* Matins Hymn, Third Sunday of the Great Fast.



## Christ And The Cross

*The insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me...drunkards make me the butt of their songs* Psalms 69: 10.

*I have become an outcast to my brothers, a stranger to my mother's sons* Psalms 69: 8.

*The winepress I have trodden alone* Isaiah 63: 3.

*Christ did not please himself; "the reproaches they uttered against you fell on me"*  
Romans 15: 3.

*To his own he came, yet his own did not accept him* John 1: 11.

*You ought to leave here....as a matter of fact, not even his brothers had confidence in him*  
John 7: 3, 5.

*Those that hate me without cause outnumber the hairs on my head* Psalms 69: 5.

*Thus says the Lord, the redeemer and the Holy One of Israel, to the one despised, whom the nations abhor, the slave of the rulers* Isaiah 49: 7.

*Had I not performed such works among them as no one has ever done before, they would not be guilty of sin; but as it is, they have seen and they go on hating me and my father*  
John 15: 24.